

The Seventh

# Geneva Writers' Conference

February 5 - 7, 2010



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**[www.genevawritersgroup.org](http://www.genevawritersgroup.org)**

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# Program

## Friday February 5

- 14:00 Literary Tour of Geneva's Old Town\*
- 17:30 Early Registration
- 19:00 Opening Buffet, Participant Readings

## Saturday February 6

- 9:00 Registration
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:30 **SESSION I**
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 Q&A
- 15:00 **SESSION II**
- 17:00 Break
- 17:15 Q&A
- 18:15 Dinner, Instructor Readings

## Sunday February 7

- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 **SESSION III**
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Q&A
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 **SESSION IV**
- 16:15 Reception

# Registration

Please send the Registration Form by post or e-mail, clearly indicating the payment method.

*Mail:* Geneva Writers' Conference, 24 chemin des Mollies,  
1293 Bellevue, Switzerland

*E-mail:* [conference@genevawritersgroup.org](mailto:conference@genevawritersgroup.org)

The deadline is Monday, January 25, 2010. Your registration will be confirmed by e-mail when payment is received. Cancellations received before January 25 will be refundable less a CHF15 handling charge. No refunds can be made after that date.

On the Registration Form please indicate four workshop choices (from the 12 listed) and two alternatives choices in order of preference. Workshops are limited to 20 participants. Places for all workshops will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The seventh Geneva Writers' Conference welcomes writers from around the world to a weekend of workshops led by well-known authors, editors, agents, and publishers from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA.

The goal is to bring together English-language writers for high-level instruction, support and feedback through workshops, discussions, and readings. The Conference instructors are experienced in teaching creative writing and committed to sharing their knowledge, skills, and perspectives on writing as an art and as a profession.

The program offers a choice of writing workshops in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. There will be two panel discussions on the Business of Writing (with agents, editors and publishers), two on Writing on the Web, two critiquing workshops, three Question & Answer sessions with instructors and panelists, and an evening of readings by the instructors. The Conference Bookshop will be open all weekend.

The Conference will take place at Webster University, Bellevue, ten minutes by car or train from the center of Geneva. Details of hotels in Geneva and means of transportation will be sent to those who register.

There will be a literary tour of Geneva's Old Town on Friday afternoon (numbers limited, prior reservation essential). The opening buffet supper for participants and staff will include an hour and a half of readings by participants (numbers limited, advanced sign-up required).

The registration fee for the Conference is CHF180 and includes:

- ✓ Workshops in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry
- ✓ Panel discussions on the Business of Writing and Writing on the Web
- ✓ Three Q&A sessions with instructors and panelists
- ✓ Evenings of Readings by participants and instructors
- ✓ Closing reception on Sunday afternoon

Meal Reservation forms (for meals in the University cafeteria) and Book Consignment forms (for the bookshop) will be sent by e-mail, with confirmation of registration. Complimentary tea and coffee will be available throughout the weekend.

\* Numbers limited. Reservation essential.

# Instructors & Panelists

## Fiction:

**Martina Evans**, prize-winning novelist and poet, was born in Cork and now lives in London. She was a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of London 2003-07, and currently teaches at City Literary Institute. She has published three books of poetry and three novels. *Facing the Public* was published by Anvil Press in 2009. [www.martinaevans.com](http://www.martinaevans.com)

**Thomas E. Kennedy** has published twenty books of fiction and nonfiction, and has won Pushcart and O. Henry Prizes and the 2008 National Magazine Award. In 2010, Bloomsbury will issue his novel *In the Company of Angels* in the US and UK (already a starred review in Publishers Weekly), followed by another in 2011. [www.thomasekennedy.com](http://www.thomasekennedy.com)

**Geeta Kothari** is fiction editor at the *Kenyon Review*. Her writing has appeared in various journals and anthologies, including *Massachusetts Review*, *New England Review*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Best American Essays*. She teaches at the University of Pittsburgh and at the Kenyon Review Writers' Workshop. [www.pitt.edu/graduate/mfa/kothari](http://www.pitt.edu/graduate/mfa/kothari)

**Richard Scrimger** has published fourteen books for children and adults. He has won awards in Canada and the United States, and been translated into a dozen languages. Latest is *Into The Ravine*, a novel of rafting and herpetology. He lives in Ontario with four teenaged sons. Richard tries to avoid meetings. [www.scrimger.ca](http://www.scrimger.ca)

## Nonfiction:

**Annette Kobak** read her memoir *Joe's War: My Father Decoded* as Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4. Her biography of Isabelle Eberhardt is now a Virago Classic. A Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow, she has written for radio, reviewed for *The NY Times Book Review*, and teaches at the Centre for Life Narratives, UK. [www.randomhouse.com/author](http://www.randomhouse.com/author)



**Robert Root** is the author of *The Nonfictionist's Guide*, *Recovering Ruth*, and *Following Isabella*. He is also the editor of *Landscapes With Figures: The Nonfiction of Place* and the co-editor of the anthology *The Fourth Genre*. A widely published essayist, he teaches in the MFA Program at Ashland University. [www.rootwriting.com](http://www.rootwriting.com)

**Susan Tiberghien** has published three memoirs: *Looking for Gold*, *Circling to the Center*, and *Footsteps*, and her bestselling nonfiction book, *One Year to a Writing Life*. She teaches at C.G. Jung Centers, IWWG Conferences, and writing programs in Europe and U.S. She directs the Geneva Writers' Group and Conferences. [www.susantiberghien.com](http://www.susantiberghien.com)

## Poetry:

**Wallis Wilde-Menzozi** publishes poetry, essays, fiction and memoir. A finalist for the Mississippi Review Poetry Contest, 2008, 2009, she won first prize in Hubbub, judge, Garrett Hongo. She teaches in Italy, the US and is a core instructor in Geneva. *Mother Tongue*, a memoir, and *Heron Songs*, poems, are her latest books. [www.walliswilde-menzozi](http://www.walliswilde-menzozi)

**John Hartley Williams** grew up in London, worked in France, Jugoslavia and Cameroun, and since 1976 has taught at the Free University of Berlin. He published eleven collections of poetry, two were shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. This year *Café des Artistes* was published by Cape. Also a pamphlet of Berlin poems, *Outpost Theater*. [www.johnhartleywilliams.de](http://www.johnhartleywilliams.de)

## Panel - Business of Writing:

**David Applefield** media specialist, writer, journalist, and publishing maverick, is the author of two novels and two guidebooks, publisher of Paris literary journal *Frank*, representative of the Financial Times in West Africa, and media advisor to the president of Senegal. He specializes in helping talented writers create winning publishing strategies. [www.paris-anglo.com](http://www.paris-anglo.com)

**Jane Dystel**, president of Dystel & Goderich Literary Management, began her publishing career at Bantam Books before moving to Grosset & Dunlap and later to World Almanac Publications, where she created her own imprint. With a prestigious client list, she founded her own successful literary agency in 1994. [www.dystel.com](http://www.dystel.com)

**Robert Stewart** edits *New Letters*, a 2008 National Magazine Award winner; *New Letters on the Air* radio series; and BkMk Press. He teaches poetry, nonfiction, and editing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Books include *Outside Language: Essays* (finalist PEN Center USA Awards 2004), *Plumbers* (poems). [www.newletters.org](http://www.newletters.org)

**Karolina Sutton**, literary agent at Curtis Brown, represents critically-acclaimed authors of fiction and non-fiction. Karolina studied English at Cambridge University. Prior to joining Curtis Brown, she was an agent at International Creative Management. She is looking for literary fiction, in particular distinctive new voices and international settings. [www.curtisbrown.co.uk](http://www.curtisbrown.co.uk)

## Panel - Writing on the Web:

**Catherine Nelson-Pollard** is a freelance writer and broadcaster. Her blog, [www.livinginnyon.com](http://www.livinginnyon.com) has a regular readership and earns her a small income. The other [www.the-perpetual-expatriate.blogspot.com](http://www.the-perpetual-expatriate.blogspot.com) is an online creative outlet just for fun. She loves the interactive nature the blogosphere can bring to writers. [www.catherinenelson-pollard.com](http://www.catherinenelson-pollard.com)

**Alistair Scott**, photographer and writer, is webmaster for the Geneva Writers' Group. He has published a book of poetry, *A Sort of Archaeology*, and a guide to photography. He finds writing markets through the Web and publicizes his work through his blog, [www.alscotts.blogspot.com](http://www.alscotts.blogspot.com) and his personal website [www.alscotts.com](http://www.alscotts.com).

**John Zimmer** is a lawyer, writer and public speaker. In his blog, [www.mannerofspeaking.wordpress.com](http://www.mannerofspeaking.wordpress.com), John provides tips on improving presentation skills. He finds blogging a great way to stretch his writing, connect with others and promote his services, as well as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

# Workshops

## Fiction:

### (1) Where Film Meets Fiction, Martina Evans:

This workshop encourages writers to think like filmmakers—a fresh approach that encourages the development of dramatic narratives and encourages writers to become confident directors of their own work. Students will use techniques such as Slow Motion, Flashback or Crowd Scenes to create vivid intense narratives.

### (2) Getting Spontaneous: How to Use Coincidence in Fiction, Thomas E. Kennedy:

Spontaneous and coincidental incidents that occur in real life while we write sometimes want to enter our creative process. Is that acceptable? Most definitely! This workshop will discuss positive aspects of the phenomenon, consider examples and offer exercises in utilizing it.

### (3) Time Management in Story, Geeta Kothari:

The scene is a small unit of time expanded; summary is a long period of time compressed. This workshop will focus balancing scene and summary. What constitutes a good scene? What makes a scene stall or lose momentum? We'll discuss the use of dialogue and blocking, character development and micro-plotting.

### (4) Writing for Children (and Adults), Richard Scrimger:

Stories are lies, but they reveal truth. And they begin with truth. Our focus will be on creating character from the inside and outside, so that your story springs to life from the people in it. My presentations are interactive. There will be some standing on chairs and a lot of laughing. By the end you will know more about your hero and yourself.



## Nonfiction:

### (5) Crafting the Truth, Annette Kobak:

You have some attraction, as yet unfathomed, to someone's life, to a journey, to an aspect of your life. How do you most faithfully, and most artfully, allow your material to find its form? Targeted exercises and examples encourage you to discover what you want to say, and then craft it into art.

### (6) Write Where You Are: Crafting Place in Nonfiction, Robert Root:

A sense of place is vital to essays, memoirs, cultural criticism, travel narratives, nature essays, and reportage. In this workshop we examine ways to inhabit, revisit, and explore place, first noting how other writers create a nonfiction of place, then engaging in strategies that anchor us in our own places.

### (7) Memoir, A Window into Your Life, Susan Tiberghien:

By choosing the focus, memoir becomes a window into your life. What window are you opening? What is its frame? Working with these questions, with examples of contemporary memoirs and guided exercises, you will move forward on a memoir already started, or start a new one. Your life has many windows.

## Poetry:

### (8) Prose Poems, John Hartley Williams:

Definition: A composition in prose bearing features of the lyric, that's to say more pronounced effects of imagery, and density of expression. It is usually short and compact, rarely extending to more than a printed page. We will

consider style and versification, and look at some contemporary prose poems before writing.

### (9) Letting Objects Speak, Wallis Wilde-Menzozi:

Poetry needs a 'thou' in order to expand the 'I' or personal voice that drives poetry. We will try to animate some objects in nature and also animate some objects that are man-made. Then we will bring them together with our own voice and write a bigger poem.

## Critiquing:

(10) Critiquing: This workshop will be devoted to critiquing unpublished work. The first writers to register will be given 10 minutes each to read their own work, and 10 minutes for critiques by panelists and other writers.

## Panel Discussions:

These take place during the workshop sessions.

(11) The Business of Writing: David Applefield, Jane Dystel, Robert Stewart, Karolina Sutton, What are the roles of agents, editors, and publishers? What do they look for in a writer? How does a manuscript finally get published?

(12) Writing on the Web: Catherine Nelson-Pollard, Alistair Scott, John Zimmer

How to create and develop your online voice, discover writing markets, and publicize your work through the medium of the internet—websites, blogs, e-zines, e-books, Facebook, and more.

## Question & Answer Periods:

These periods are open (not necessary to register). They will allow for contact with the instructors and panelists.